

To the Chairman and Members of the
Colwyn Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1954.

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Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year
1954.

GENERAL.

The Colwyn Rural District is almost entirely agricultural, with a small amount of industry which is concentrated in the parish of Llanellwedd. Although there was, in the past, a fairly important concentration of industry at the railway centre of Builth Road, the importance of this junction has declined progressively since the advent of nationalisation, and only a skeleton staff is now maintained. There are no large towns in the district.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

General.

Area..... 29,579 acres.
Population (Census 1951).. 1,729. (Males 893.Females 836).
No. of inhabited houses .. 480.
Size of average household. 3.6 persons.
Estimated Popn. mid-1954... 1,620.

Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population.</u>
Live births - legitimate.	6.	10.	16.	
.. .. - illegitimate.	0.	0.	0.	
	6.	10.	16.	9.8
Still births.....	0.	0.	0.	0.

Deaths.

Deaths from all causes	16.	6.	22.	13.5
Maternal deaths.....		NIL.		
Deaths under one year.....	1.	0.	1.	0.6
Infantile deaths per 1,000 live births-				62.5.

Deaths from Special Causes.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach...	1.	0.	1.
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	2.	0.	2.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1.	3.	4.
Coronary disease, Angina.....	4.	0.	4.
Other heart disease.....	3.	2.	5.
Bronchitis.....	0.	1.	1.
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	1.	0.	1.
Congenital malformations.....	1.	0.	1.
Other defined and ill- defined diseases.....	3.	0.	3
Totals....	16.	6.	22.

Birthrate 1954..... 9.8
Birthrate for
England and Wales 1954... 15.2

Deathrate 1954 13.5
Deathrate for England
and Wales, 1954..... 11.3

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health.... Dr. D. F. Cameron.
Sanitary Inspector..... Mr. G. Llewellyn.

Laboratory facilities. During the year a change in the railway timetables made it possible for all water samples to be sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen, and it was found possible to have samples delivered to the laboratory within two and a half hours of despatch. Samples for the Public Analyst at Carmarthen were sent in the same way, and this arrangement was responsible for a great easing of the position relative to water sampling.

Ambulance facilities. The district is served by ambulances from Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells, both administered by their respective County Authorities.

Home Nursing. District Nurses operating under the supervision of the Radnorshire Health Authority carried out home nursing duties.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Orthopaedic, E.N.T., and Chest Clinics are regularly held at Llandrindod Wells, and a weekly Chest Clinic is held at Builth Wells.

Hospitals. There is no hospital in the district, treatment being available at the County Hospital, Llandrindod Wells, and at Builth Cottage Hospital, Builth Wells.

Maternity and Child Welfare. Adequate arrangements are in existence in the area for Maternity and Child Welfare supervision directed by the County Medical Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water supply. The water supplies to the various parts of the district are derived from springs. There were no serious shortages during the year. Maintenance of the supplies was carried out as necessary. Sixty visits were made for the purpose of supervision of water supplies, and for the taking of samples as follows :-

Llanfaredd supply.....	6	samples.	(	3	satisfactory.	3	unsatisfactory.)
Llanelwedd supply.....	4	---	(	3	---	1	---
Aberedw supply.	3	---	(	2	---	1	---
Cregina supply.....	2	---	(	1	---	1	---
Hundred House supply.....	2	---	(	2	---		
Howey supply.....	2	---	(	2	Satisfactory)		

In addition, sixteen samples were taken from various private sources or sources proposed for inclusion in private schemes. There was some demand for samples from supplies which were the subject of Hill Farming Act Grant Proposals, and any necessary advice in this connection was given to applicants.

Aberedw. The new Water Supply Scheme was completed during the year, and provided an abundant supply. This supply is the only one subjected to chlorination by the Council, and although there was difficulty with the chlorinating plant in the early stages, these were overcome, and, although tests for free chlorine continued satisfactorily, there were no complaints of excessive chlorination.

Proposed Regional Scheme. Preparatory work on this scheme continued, and notification of the amount of grant proposed by the Ministry was received. At the end of the year the Draft Order for the formation of the proposed Water Board was submitted for ministerial approval. Work on the acquisition of various pieces of land needed for the works was in hand during the year.

Other Proposed Schemes. A scheme for a supply of water to a group of cottages at Crossways, Llanfaredd was prepared and submitted to the Welsh Office, Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Aberedw Farm Scheme. At the beginning of the year the Council submitted to the Ministry a scheme for supplying water to various farms in Aberedw situated too high to benefit from the Aberedw village scheme. This was revised during the year, and the revised scheme was submitted for approval in

November. At the end of the year discussion of the Council's revised proposals was continuing.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council's housing estate at Llanfaredd and the railway station district of Llanfawcdd are served by small sewerage systems. The Council's estate at Llwynbrain Villas is provided with a modified system of sewerage connected to a cesspool and field drains. This system is used for sullage water only.

Many visits were paid to sewerage disposal sites for the purpose of supervision and maintenance.

Number of visits to sewage disposal systems.....	24.
" " general visits in connection with	
sewage disposal.....	9.
" " inspections of new drainage schemes.....	8.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes.

Aberedw. Plans for a sewerage scheme for proposed new houses and part of the existing village of Aberedw were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. Tenders for the carrying out of the approved scheme were invited and one tender accepted.

Hundred House. Plans for a sewage disposal system to serve the Council's houses and two proposed houses at Hundred House were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Howey. During the year the Radnorshire County Council determined the amount of grant which they were prepared to offer in connection with the Council's proposed sewerage scheme for Howey. At the end of the year this scheme was still held up by objections made by the Wye River Board, who required the installation of a scheme of entirely "separate" drainage, as opposed to the "partially separate" scheme proposed by the Council's engineers. At the end of the year the Council asked the Ministry to intervene with the River Board in order to hasten the progress of this scheme.

Public Cleansing.

The Council's refuse collection scheme continued to operate without difficulty. Refuse collected was disposed of on tips in the adjoining Rural District of Builth.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspection of the district was undertaken by the Council's Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Llewellyn. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received	11
Number of complaints investigated.....	11
Number of premises revisited.....	7
Number of notices served.....	4

Houses let in Lodgings. There are no houses in the area which require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the area.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried out in the area.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made	10
Number of notices served.....	0

Tents, Vans and Sheds. Application was received for the approval of one site for positioning of moveable dwellings at Howey, and this

was approved.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	4
Number of visits made.....	8
Notices served.....	0
Defects found.....	1

Eradication of Bed Bugs. There were no cases reported during the year.

Rodent Control.

Number of premises inspected.....	280
Number found infested.....	85
Number of premises treated.....	72
Total number of visits to premises.....	594

Myxomatosis. The incidents of myxomatosis amongst the rabbit population of the district rose to violent proportions and by the end of the year the rabbit population had been virtually exterminated.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

HOUSING.

No houses were built by the Council during the year.

Proposed Housing Schemes. Aberedw. A scheme was prepared for the provision of eight houses at Aberedw. This scheme having been improved, tenders were invited, and these were received, and one accepted, towards the end of the year. The death of the Council's Architect during the year necessitated a fresh appointment and the position was eventually filled by Messrs. S.N. Shrimpton and Son, of Knighton and Ludlow.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, Article 31. No representations with a view to demolition were made during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Number of inspections of vehicles and premises..... 26

Milk continued to be supplied by a number of small vendors throughout the district, and no complaints regarding the cleanliness or keeping quality of milk were received. Distributors' vehicles were found to be in a satisfactory condition. The Council is fortunate in having in its area a milk collecting centre operated by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and throughout the year large quantities of milk passed through this centre for cooling, and were then re-distributed in bulk to creameries in various parts of the country. Sanitary conditions in these premises remained very satisfactory.

Meat. The Ministry of Food slaughtering point at Llanellwedd continued to function up to the end of the period of meat control. The premises then passed into private hands, and considerable improvement work and mechanisation was carried out to improve the facilities. Meat of a high standard passed through this slaughterhouse during the remainder of the year, and the standard of dressing and the cleanliness of the carcasses was exemplary. Meat Inspection at the slaughterhouse was carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspector. The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the amounts of meat and offal condemned.

	No. inspected.	Whole carcasses condemned.	Part carcasses Condemned.	Offal Condemned.
Cattle.	246.	1	240 lbs.	1,332 lbs.
Calves.	132	4	-	23 ..
Sheep.	2,962	13		560 ..
Pigs.	339	-	168 ..	73 ..
TOTALS.	3,679	18	968 lbs.	1,988 lbs.

Ice Cream Premises. There is one retailer of ice-cream in the district who is registered by the Council, and during the year ice-cream was also sold in many other places by an itinerant vendor representing one of the bigger manufacturers. Neither retailer gave any cause for complaint during the year.

Food premises. The following food premises were in operation at the end of the year.

Grocers 7.
Public houses.....6.
Dairies 1
Cafes.....2

The district is also supplied with a considerable amount of food by various mobile retailers operating from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells, and Newbridge-on-Wye. These people supply bread, meat, and foodstuffs generally from small vans and so-called "mobile shops".

Number of inspections of food premises
and vehicles..... 5

Contraventions requiring action..... 1.

Food condemnation NIL.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The district remained very free from infectious disease during the year, only two cases of Lobar Pneumonia and one case Chicken Pox having been notified.

(signed). D. F. Cameron.

Medical Officer of Health.

